Eviction appeal to be heard at month's end

By [illegible] STEWART
Post Staff Writer

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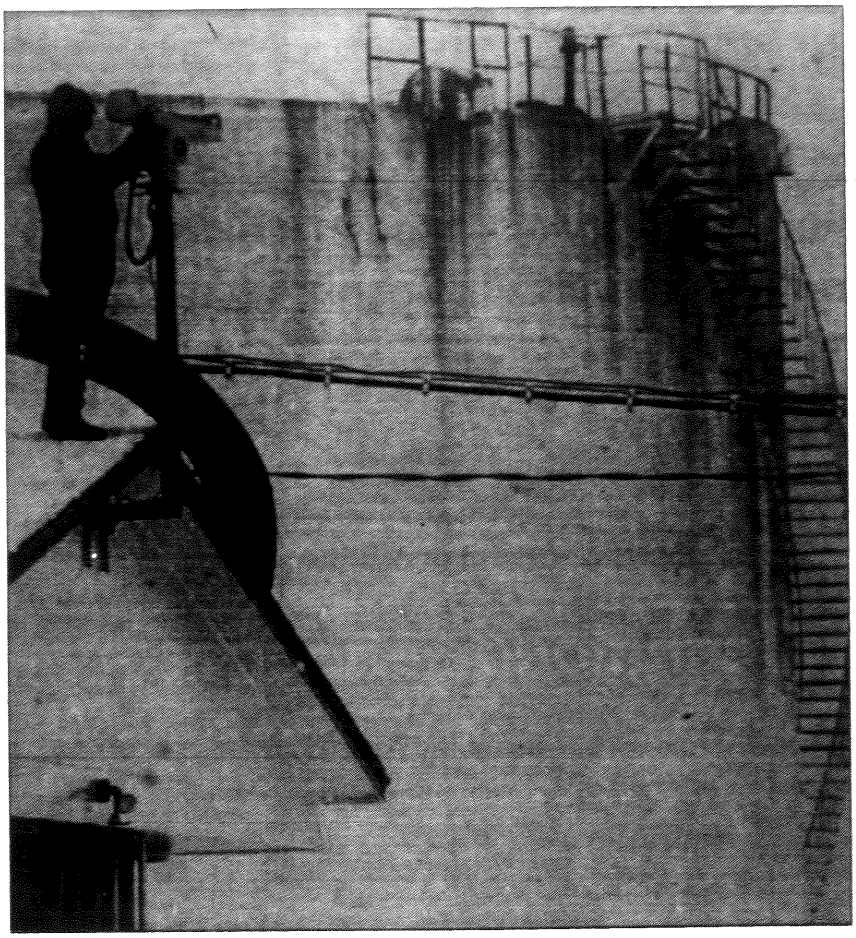

CAMERA ON — Esso employee Robert LeDrew works high above the ground as he does repairs to a surveillance camera at the Imperial Oil bulk plant on George St. in Sydney Thursday.

Post photo by Ray Fahey

Police prepare for crackdown

Snowmobile law violations to be enforced, say officers

By SHARON MONTGOMERY
Post Staff Writer

RCMP in Cape Breton will be using snowmobiles more than ever this year, but it won't be recreational.

The Mounties say they will be after snowmobile offenders of the off-highway vehicle act, from drinking drivers to those with unregistered vehicles.

Officers are not simply taking ticket stubs back with them, but in many cases the machines are being confiscated.

Sydney Sub Division Staff Sgt. Tom Barlow said snowmobile infractions are just as much a problem in the Sydney area, as in the rural areas.

"This time of year snowmobile complaints come in from all over the country. We just seized a couple that were tearing up and down the street sidewalks," he said.

Barlow said snowmobile enforcement is frequently practiced in Sydney, adding snowmobiles can be and usually are seized for any infraction under the off-highway act including for not wearing helmets, unlicensed machines or even for safety reasons.

"A lot of times Barlow said they will be chasing machines and people will jump off of them and take off.

"We have around eight snowmobiles that are used as needed by the various detachments. We are expecting two new ones sometime next week," he added.

Sgt. Kevin Doane from the North Sydney detachment of the RCMP, said their members will be enforcing the law from snowmobiles at times throughout the season. Although there are not any machines stationed at the detachment, Doane said they are readily available through the Sydney detachment for their use.

In North Sydney Doane said their members will be utilizing the machines for checking cottages and cabins along the Bras d'Or Lakes and other areas.

"We will be putting stickers on the cabins to show they were checked by police," he said.

Const. Allen Carroll of the Chéticamp detachment of the RCMP, said although they have been into snowmobile enforcement for 10 years, this year they are stepping up their enforcement.

"We are hoping to be out there more on them this year, depending on the weather conditions," he said.

"I don't think the public realize

Const. Dave Roper, Crime Prevention Victim/Services co-ordinator for the Sydney detachment of the RCMP, tags a snowmobile seized in the Sydney area, for a violation under the off-highway vehicle act. RCMP in Cape Breton said they are stepping up enforcement of laws involving snowmobiles.

Post photo by Sharon Montgomery

In Port Hawkesbury the RCMP held a pilot project last year introducing snowmobile enforcement to the area, organized by Const. Donnie Deveau.

Staff Sgt. Don Redden said this enforcement will continue with members mainly looking for any unregistered off-road vehicles from farm tractors to all terrain vehicles.

"We will especially be looking for unregistered snowmobiles this year, and will be looking at seizing those that aren't. It is not fair that some people have them registered while others don't," he added.

Redden said it is an offence to have any unregistered machine running, from a farm tractor, to a dune buggy or all terrain vehicle (ATV) to a vessel.

"From a snowmobile that looks like a sleek Cadillac to a farm tractor, the same rules apply, including by being able to use a road side screening breathalyser device to convict impaired drivers," he said.

Redden said the Cape Clear Snowmobile Club has been of great assistance to them. Each year he said a large snowmobile rally is held in the town, and they have an

Sydney man's assault trial awaits judge's decision

By STEVE MACINNIS
Post Staff Writer

Provincial court Judge Stan Campbell will decide Jan. 26 who is telling the truth in a case for a Sydney man charged with beating and sexually assaulting a Victoria County woman.

"Somebody's lying your honor," said defence counsel Darcy MacPherson, at the outset of his closing remarks Thursday.

He said while the victim's version of events was compelling, it was not capable of being believed beyond a reasonable doubt.

MacPherson cast the blame for the assault on the woman's eldest son.

His client, Parker Douglas Rudderham, 38, is charged with two counts of assault and one count each of sexual assault and assault causing bodily harm. The incidents are alleged to have occurred between December, 1992 and May, 1993.

Rudderham has been in jail since his arrest last May 12 — two days after the woman was hospitalized from injuries a doctor testified resulted from considerable force.

Information leading to the victim's identity is prohibited from publication.

A total of 11 witnesses testified including the victim and the accused.

The proceeding's became clouded at times as both sides argued over everything from admissibility of evidence to the manner in which questions were being directed to witnesses.

In recounting the more serious assault, the woman told the court Rudderham threw her into her son's closet before tearing off her clothes and sexually assaulting her.

In his defence, Rudderham said the woman injured herself after falling while jogging.

Crown Attorney Doug Lloy said like the majority of such crimes, the acts are committed in private and credibility becomes the most important avenue in determining the truth.

He said there was no reason for the woman to fabricate her story and expose her personal life in a public trial.

Lloy said Rudderham was glib in offering his version of events and while supplying some specifics, he was very vague on key issues.

"His testimony is too far-fetched and fantastic to believe," he said.

Fortress plans on schedule

By GREG HINES
Post Staff Writer

"We were very pleased with the numbers who contributed," says O'Neill.

calls and letters from individuals.

She says officials from Parks Canada also held a meeting with the members of the Louisbourg

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